

2020

Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission
Historic Landscapes Subcommittee

LEGAL ACTION REPORT
Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Via Zoom

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Grede at 10:15 a.m. Those present and absent were:

Members Present:

Steve Grede, Chair
Jan Mulder
Diana Hadley

Members Absent/Excused:

Harry Walker
Betty Villegas

Others Present:

Eric Barrett, ARC Studios, Inc.
Corky Poster, PMM Poster, Mirto, McDonald Architecture
Michael Becherer, Swaim Associates LTD
Robert Alcala, GLHN Architects & Engineers, Inc.
Terry Johansen, Aqua Design International
Jodie Brown, Historic Preservation Officer
Helen Erickson, TCC Today
Karla Van Drunen Littooy, TCC Today

2. Review Cases

a. TCC Landscape – Eckbo Fountain Renovations

Corky Poster, Mirto, McDonald Architecture; and Eric Barrett, ARC Studios

Corky Poster explained that the design for the TCC Landscape will be in three phases: Ticket office – this year, central plaza between the Leo Rich Theater and the TCC Music Hall – next year, and the Walkway north of the central plaza – when The Flin is completed, and the hotel work is determined.

Mr. Poster emphasized that the project has multiple histories and that the landscape needs to tell multiple stories and to be welcoming to all Tucsonans.

Restoration/rehabilitation of the landscape to the original Eckbo design with some exceptions required by water-quality issues, hardscape rehabilitation to better accommodate plant growth, and the provision of a minimum base level of lighting. Plant materials are to respect the original intent of the design but also be sensitive to contemporary water-usage concerns. Later additions of non-contributing public art are to be removed.

Eric Barrett discussed the TCC landscape design and presented plans for the Upper Plaza. The irrigation will draw on a non-potable source. The caliche soil conditions will be mitigated by gravel trenches to accommodate root growth and provide drainage. The hardscape is to be removed, retained, and replaced for reasons of safety and to minimize excessive slope. Paving in the northeast corner adjacent to Church Avenue will not be replaced because of the cluster of utilities at that location. Tree grates will be replaced by 9'-4" by 4' open planters with stabilized decomposed granite. The planter within the turf berm – originally designed for decorative plantings – will continue as lawn. The missing eucalyptus in the curved planter will be replaced with *Eucalyptus microtheca*. The two eucalyptus that originally extended into the live oak tree grid were to be eliminated due to concerns about pavement heaving.

Commissioner Mulder moved that Historic Landscapes Subcommittee of the TPCHC Plans Review Subcommittee recommend approval of the TCC Landscape Phase I with further investigation of ways to integrate the line of eucalyptus into the live oak grid, which is seen as an important design element. The motion clarified that the turf in the planter area is appropriate to the intent of the original design and the gravel paving in the northeast corner is an essential accommodation resulting from the utilities in that location.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hadley and carried by a voice vote of 3-0.

3. Current Issues for Information/Discussion

Commissioner Mulder pointed out that current construction along Church Avenue prevents access to the entire TCC site for pedestrians and bicyclists, who now have to navigate the entire super block to reach the other side of the site. Michael Becherer explained that TDOT requested that the fence be installed. It was suggested that a temporary accessible access walk be opened to Church

Avenue, as the TCC is shut down now. Mr. Becherer volunteered to contact TDOT and Sundt Construction to see if access can be opened in the near term. He noted that access will need to be provided when the ticket office reopens.

4. Future Agenda Items for Upcoming Meetings

These will be communicated to Chair Grede.

5. Call to the Audience [Information Only]

No items to discuss.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.